Increasing Prices of Pulses

2750. SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that pulses are the main source of protein for the common man of the country;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the prices of pulses are increasing at a faster rate in the country at present;

(c) if so, the reasons for high price of pulses; and

(d) whether Government propose to reorient its planning to make pulses available to common man at affordable prices?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ARVIND NETAM): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) There has been an upward movement of the wholesale price index for pulses in September, 1994 in comparison to the same period last year.

(c) and (d) The Centrally Sponsored National Pulses Development Project (NPDP) is being implemented in 25 States and U.T. of A&N Islands to increase the production of pulses with key components such as production and distribution of seeds, improved farm implements, sprinkler sets, rhyzobium culture, Integrated Pest Management (IPM) etc. In order to disseminate the latest production technologies to the farmers, general demonstrations and frontline demonstrations are being organised through the State Department of Agriculture and ICAR respectively. The production of pulses during 1993-94 has reached as estimated 14.2 million tonnes. In addition, import of pulses is allowed under OGL to increase the availability of pulses.

Agreement with other Countries to Boost Agricultural Sector

2751. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether India has signed any agreement with other countries including France to boost farm sector, exchange track mission and promote co-operation in transfer of technology etc. till date; and

(b) if so, the details thereof indicating how quality control and testing standards etc. would be implemented in agricultural sector?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ARVIND NETAM): (a) and (b) India has signed agreements with several countries including France, Israel, Netherlands, Syria, Philippines, Nepal, Indonesia, Cyprus, China, Mauritius, Monogolia, Iran, Vietnam, etc. for promoting co-operation in the field of agriculture. The agreements provide for developing scientific, technical and economic co-operation with these countries in the field of agriculture and allied sectors through joint research activities, training, exchange of scientists and experts, material and information, organisation of exhibitions, symposia, trade meetings etc.

The work Schedule signed on 9th November, 1994 between Government of India and the Government of France under the Indo-French Agreement for co-operation in the field of agriculture and agro-food industries specifically includes proposals for joint ventures, transfer of technology, supply of equipment and exchange of trade missions between the two countries. The work Schedule also includes proposals for improving quality control and testing procedures in India in the production and packaging of fruit and vegetables, milk products and production of seeds of temperate vegetables by obtaining French assistance in transfer of technology; training of Indian technologists and quality control staff and research & development.

Gaps in Agricultural Research Activities

2752. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that despite having a vast network of agricultural research institutions in the country there are serious gaps in India's agricultural research activities as reported in the 'Hindustan Times' dated 7th November, 1994;

(b) whether Directors of the research institutions under ICAR met in New Delhi recently in an effort to plug these gaps and reorient the system to face up the new challenges on the farm front;

(c) if so, what are the details of discussions held and outcome thereof to increase production of cereals, pulses and oilseeds and whether in other areas such as horticulture, animal husbandry and food processing, any research is likely to be undertaken; and if so with what results; and

(d) by when Government propose to amend ICAR rules in order to back-up the agri-business concept and new export orientation on the farm sector, give details; and if not, the reasons for delay?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ARVIND NETAM): (a) to (c) The Indian Agricultural Research System is considered to be one of the best and is being adopted by many developing countries. The Directors of Research Institutes under ICAR system met in New Delhi on November 7th and 8th, 1994. It was

recommended that food security, sustainable agriculture and conservation of natural resources must receive priority in all the research programmes. Each institute must evolve a strategic plan for both long term and short term goals. One of the major thrust area in the VIII Five Year Plan document of the ICAR is diversification of agriculture to horticulture, fisheries, animal products and post harvest processing. A number of national research centres have been established during the VII and VIII plan to give a thrust in horticultural crops such as Banana, Grapes, Spices, Cashew, Orchids, Mushroom, Citrus, Oil-palm, Onion and Garlic, Medicinal and aromatic Plants and Arid Horticulture.

(d) The rules of the ICAR Society have been recently amended to constitute a Research Advisory Committee and a Staff Research Council for each of the ICAR Institute to augment and reorient its research efforts in new directions. The Rules and By-laws of the ICAR Society are flexible enough to reorient farm research towards agri-business and frontier areas of technologies.

Plant Pest Resistance

2753. SHRI B. K. HARIPRASAD: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is increasing evidence of plant pest resistance to chemical pesticides over the years and if so, list and details of plant pests that have turned resistant to pesticides singly or multi-resistant;

(b) whether the application and total use of pesticides is increasing as a result of above and if so, details thereof;

(c) whether it is a fact that human vectors of parasites like malaria etc. have also turned resistant singly and multi-resistant and if so, list of such vectors in the country indicating whether use of pesticides for control has increased as a result; and

(d) whether Government have framed and finalised a National Pesticide Policy as has been urged by many NGOs and notably by Society of Citizen Concerns in its press writings over the years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ARVIND NETAM): (a) Sir, development of resistance to chemical pesticides by plant pests is a biological phenomenon largely depends upon the population pressure of the insects, type of pesticide used and other environmental factors. Details of plant pests which have been reported to have developed resistance to pesticides are as follows:

Plant pest single/multi-resistance to chemical pesticides

Plant pest	Resistance to chemical pesticides
A. SINGLE RESISTANCE	
DIAMONDBACK-MOTH	Malathion
MUSTARD APHID	Dimethoate
B. MULTIPLE RISISTANCE	
AMERICAN BOLL-WORM	ENDOSULFAN MONOCROTOPHOS CYPERMETHRIN FENVALERATE

(b) No, Sir. The Government is promoting the adoption of Integrated Pest Management which inter alia comprises cultural, mechanical, biological and need-based use of pesticides of plant origin.

(c) Yes, Sir, there are indications of development of resistance in vectors of human diseases. Details are as below:

List of human disease vectors Resistant

Name of vector	Resistant to	
	DDT (Single)	Malathion (Triple)
Anopheline Culicifacies		
Anopheline **Stephensi**	Single	Triple
Anopheline **annularis**	Single	—
Culex **quinquefasciatus**	Single	Triple
Culex **vishunui** group	Single	—

However, there is no increase in use of insecticides for vector control. The consumption of pesticide has decreased from 22,400 MT during 90-91 to 16,600 MT during 93-94.

(d) The import, manufacture and the use of pesticides in the country is governed under the various provisions of the Insecticides Act, 1968 and the Rules framed thereunder. Integrated Pest Management which inter-alia advocates preferential use of non-chemical pest control methods has been adopted as the cardinal principle of plant protection.